29, 31-33, 37-39, 41-43, and 45-48 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 21, and 41 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-16, 31-36, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

First, cancellation of Claims 10, 14-16, and 34-36 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 10, 17, 18, 21-26, 30, 37, 38, 41-44, 47, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,013 (*Momose et al.*).

Claims 7, 8, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,136 (*Ono et al.*). Claims 9, 19, 29, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Momose et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,461 (*Kubo et al.*).

Cancellation of Claims 10, 14-16, 20, 30, 34-36, 40, and 44 renders their rejections moot.

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 21, and 41 in terms that more clearly define the present invention. Applicants submit that these

amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an image processing method. The method includes the steps of registering an editing set to an editing menu, the editing set including a plurality of editing processes designated by a user, identifying an editing set selected from the editing menu, and displaying a plurality of images inputted by image inputting means in the form of reduced-size images. The method further includes the steps of selecting at least one image from the plurality of displayed images, and performing the plurality of editing processes, which correspond to the editing set identified by the identifying step, on the at least one image selected by the selecting step.

An important feature of Claim 1 is registering an editing set, which includes a plurality of editing processes, to an editing menu, displaying a plurality of the inputted images in the form of reduced-size images, and performing a plurality of editing processes, which correspond to the editing set selected from the editing menu, on the image selected from the displayed images.

Momose et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a printing control apparatus and a printing control method that controls printing by a printing device, which is connected, for example, with a personal computer. Apparently, *Momose et al.* teaches that print attribute, such as sheet size, orientation, printable area magnification-reduction, layout or watermark printing, is able to be registered in a pull-down menu. Nothing has been found in *Momose et al.* that teaches or suggests registering an editing set, which includes a plurality of editing processes, to an editing menu, displaying a plurality of the

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inputted images in the form of reduced-size images, and performing a plurality of editing

processes, which correspond to the editing set selected from the editing menu, on the image

selected from the displayed images.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by *Momose*

et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Independent Claims 21 and 41 are apparatus and computer readable storage

medium claims respectively corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be

patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.
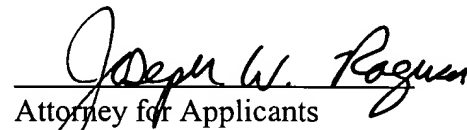
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of

the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for

at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an

additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case

may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully

request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] <u>An image processing</u>

<u>method</u>, comprising the steps of:

[specifying a plurality of editing processes to be performed on an

image; and]

registering <u>an editing set to an editing menu, the editing set including a</u>

[said] plurality of [specified] editing processes [as one set of editing processes] <u>designated by a</u>

<u>user;</u> [and]

identifying [a] <u>an editing</u> set [of editing processes thereby determining a

plurality of editing processes to be performed on an image] <u>selected from the editing menu;</u>

<u>displaying a plurality of images inputted by image inputting means in</u>

<u>the form of reduced-size images;</u>

<u>selecting at least one image from the plurality of displayed images; and</u>

<u>performing the plurality of editing processes, which correspond to the</u>

<u>editing set identified by said identifying step, on the at least one image selected by said selecting</u>

<u>step</u>.

2.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] <u>An image processing</u>

<u>method</u> according to Claim 1, [wherein an identifier indicating said one set of editing processes

is registered, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

displaying a plurality of registered identifiers in the form of a list; and

calling a set of editing processes corresponding to an identifier selected

from the list of said plurality of registered identifiers] further comprising the step of displaying

the editing menu that includes a plurality of identifiers indicating each of the editing sets, and

wherein said identifying step identifies the selected editing set by

identifying an identifier selected from the editing menu.

3.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing

method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of specified editing processes are registered

as] editing set includes layout information.

4.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing

method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set

includes image rotation.

5.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing

method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set

includes image enlargement.

6.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing

method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set

includes image reduction.

7.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image brightness adjustment.

8.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image contrast adjustment.

9.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image] An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes designation of an image aspect ratio.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

11.   [A method of processing an image, comprising the steps of:] An image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the editing set registered in said registering step is the plurality of editing processes designated by the user on an image preview window.

[identifying an editing process performed on an image;

assigning an identifier to said identified editing process and registering said identifier assigned to the editing process; and

calling an editing process indicated by a specified identifier, and performing said editing process upon another image which is different from the previous image.]

12.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image,] An image processing

method according to Claim 11, wherein [when said editing process is registered, the image upon

which said editing process has been performed is not registered] the editing set includes layout

information, the layout information indicating information of position to lay the at least one

selected image, the position being designated by the user on the image preview window.

13.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image,] An image processing

method according to Claim [11] 1, wherein said image [is an image input by means of scanning

using a scanner] inputting means is at least one of a scanner, a digital camera, a storage medium

and a film scanner.

Claims 14-16 have been canceled.

17.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image, comprising the steps of:

designating a selection condition from a plurality of image information

selection conditions which have been registered in advance;

detecting image information which meets said designated selection

condition from plural pieces of image information and calling the detected image information;

and

outputting the called image information] An image processing method

according to Claim 1, wherein said editing set includes an image selection condition,

and wherein said selecting step selects at least one image from the

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plurality of displayed images based on the image selection condition of the editing set identified by said indentifying step.

18.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image,] An image processing method according to Claim 17, wherein said image selection condition is a condition based on the order of [storing said plural pieces of information] the plurality of images displayed by said display step.

19.   (Amended) [A method of processing an image,] An image processing method according to Claim 17, wherein said image selection condition is [magnetic information stored such that said magnetic information is linked to image information] a condition based on magnetic information of the image.

Claim 20 has been canceled.

21.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

[specifying means for specifying a plurality of editing processes to be performed on an image;]

registration means for registering [said plurality of specified editing processes as one set of editing processes; and

determination means for determining a plurality of editing processes to be performed on an image, by identifying a set of editing processes.] an editing set to an editing

menu, the editing set including a plurality of editing processes designated by a user;

identification means for identifying an editing set selected from the editing menu;

display means for displaying a plurality of images inputted by image inputting means in the form of reduced-size images;

selection means for selecting at least one image from the plurality of displayed images; and

performance means for performing the plurality of editing processes, which correspond to the editing set by said identification means, on the at least one image selected by said selection means.

22. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, [wherein said registration means registers said one set of editing processes together with an identifier indicating said one set of editing process, and wherein said image processing apparatus further comprises:

list displaying means for displaying a plurality of registered identifiers in the form of a list; and

calling means for calling a set of editing processes corresponding to an identifier selected from the list of said plurality of registered identifiers.] further comprising menu display means for displaying the editing menu that includes a plurality of identifiers indicating each of the editing sets, and

wherein said identification means identifies the selected editing set by

identifying an identifier selected from the editing menu.

23.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said [registration means registers said plurality of specified editing processes as] editing set includes layout information.

24.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image rotation.

25.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image enlargement.

26.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image reduction.

27.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image brightness adjustment.

28.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes image contrast adjustment.

29.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 21,

wherein said [plurality of editing processes include] editing set includes designation of an image

aspect ratio.

Claim 30 has been canceled.

31.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus [comprising:

editing process identifying means for identifying an editing process

performed on an image;

registration means for registering an editing processes identified by said

editing process identifying means together with an identifier indicating said editing process; and

editing means for calling an editing process indicated by a specified

identifier, and performing said editing process upon another image which is different from the

previous image.] according to Claim 21, wherein the editing set registered in said registering

means is the plurality of editing processes designated by the user on an image preview window.

32.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31,

wherein [when said registration means registers said editing process, said registration means does

not register the image upon which said editing process has been performed.] the editing set

includes layout information, the layout information indicating information of position to lay the

at least one selected image, the position being designated by the user on the image preview

window.

33.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim [31] 21,

[further comprising a scanner for inputting said image by means of scanning.] wherein said

image inputting means is at least one of a scanner, a digital camera, a storage medium and a film

scanner.

Claims 34-36 have been canceled.

37.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus [comprising:

designating means for designating a selection condition from a plurality

of image information selection conditions which have been registered in advance;

image information calling means for detecting image information,

which meets the selection condition designated by said designating means, from plural pieces of

image information and calling the detected image information; and

outputting means for outputting the image information called by said

image information calling means.] according to Claim 21, wherein said editing set includes an

image selection condition, and

wherein said selection means selects at least one image from the

plurality of displayed imaged based on the image selection condition of the editing set identified

by said identification means.

38.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 37,

wherein said image selection condition is a condition based on the order of [storing said plural

pieces of information] <u>the plurality of images displayed by said display means</u>.

39. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 37, wherein said <u>image</u> selection condition is [magnetic information stored such that said magnetic information is linked to image information] <u>a condition based on magnetic information of the image</u>.

Claim 40 has been canceled.

41. (Amended) A computer readable storage medium on which a program is stored, said program including <u>codes for executing the steps of</u>:

[a control program for specifying a plurality of editing processes to be performed on an image;

a control program for registering said plurality of specified editing processes as one set of editing processes; and

a control program for determining a plurality of editing processes to be performed on an image, by identifying a set of editing processes.] <u>registering an editing set to an editing menu, the editing set including a plurality of editing processes designated by a user;</u>

<u>identifying an editing set selected from the editing menu;</u>

<u>displaying a plurality of images inputted by image inputting means in the form of reduced-size images;</u>

<u>selecting at least one image from the plurality of displayed images; and</u>

performing the plurality of editing processes, which correspond to the editing set identified by said identifying step, on the at least one image selected by said selecting step.

42.   (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 41, wherein said program further includes[:

a control program for registering said one set of editing processes together with an identifier identifying said one set of editing processes;

a control program for displaying a plurality of registered identifiers in the form of a list; and

a control program for calling a set of editing processes corresponding to an identifier selected from the list of said plurality of registered identifiers] codes for executing the step of displaying the editing menu that includes a plurality of identifiers indicating each of the editing sets, and

wherein said identifying step indentifies the selected editing set by identifying an identifier selected from the editing menu.

43.   (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 41, wherein said [program further includes a control program for registering said plurality of specified] editing set includes [processes as] layout information.

Claim 44 has been canceled.

45.   (Amended) [A computer readable storage medium on which a program is stored, said program including:

a control program for identifying an editing process performed on an image;

a control program for registering an identified editing processes together with an identifier indicating said editing process; and

a control program for calling said editing process indicated by a specified identifier, and performing said editing process upon another image which is different from the previous image.] A storage medium according to Claim 41, wherein the editing set registered in said registering step is the plurality of editing processes designated by the user on an image preview window.

46.   (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 45, wherein [said program further includes a control program for controlling registration of said editing process such that the image upon which said editing process has been performed is not registered.] the editing set includes layout information, the layout information indicating information of position to lay the at least one selected image, the position being designated by the user on the image preview window.

47.   (Amended) [A computer readable storage medium on which a program is stored, said program including:

a control program for designating a selection condition from a plurality

of image information selection conditions which have been registered in advance;

a control program for detecting image information, which meets the designated selection condition, from plural pieces of image information and calling the detected image information; and

a control program for outputting the called image information.] A storage medium according to Claim 41, wherein said editing set includes an image selection condition, and

wherein said selecting step selects at least one image from the plurality of displayed images based on the image selection condition of the editing set identified by said identifying step.

48.   (Amended) A storage medium according to Claim 47, wherein said [program further includes:

a control program for controlling the operation of displaying a list such that names representing said selection conditions are displayed in the form of list together with names representing plural pieces of layout information which have been registered in advance; and

a control program for performing a process corresponding to a name selected from the list of names upon an image.] image selection condition is a condition based on the order of the plurality of images displayed by said display step.

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